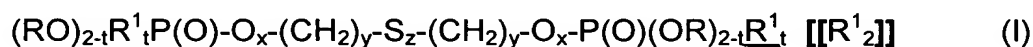


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A compound corresponding to the formula:



in which:

- R represents a hydrogen, an alkyl, an aryl, a trialkylsilyl, a trialkylamino or an alkali metal;
- R^1 represents an alkyl or an aryl;
- x is 0 or 1;
- y is an integer from 1 to 22;
- $z \geq 3$;
- t is 0 or 1.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein R is an alkyl radical having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein R is trialkylsilyl group R'_3Si- in which the R' substituents represent identical or different alkyl groups having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms.

Claim 4 (Presently Presented): The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein R is a trialkylamino group R''_3N- in which the R'' substituents represent identical or different alkyl groups having from 1 to 5 carbon atoms.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein R is an alkali metal selected from the group consisting of Na and K.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein $x = 0$.

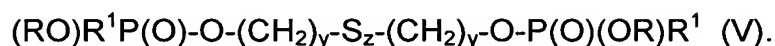
Claim 7 (Presently Presented): The compound as claimed in claim 6, corresponding to the formula
 $(RO)_2P(O)-(CH_2)_y-S_z-(CH_2)_y-P(O)(OR)_2$ (II).

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The compound as claimed in claim 6, corresponding to the formula
 $(RO)R^1P(O)-(CH_2)_y-S_z-(CH_2)_y-P(O)(OR)\underline{R^1}$ **[[R']]** (IV).

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein $x = 1$.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The compound as claimed in claim 9, corresponding to the formula
 $(RO)_2P(O)-O-(CH_2)_y-S_z-(CH_2)_y-O-P(O)(OR)_2$ (III).

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The compound as claimed in claim 9, corresponding to the formula



Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein z is on average equal to 4.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein R^1 is an alkyl radical having from 1 to 18 carbon atoms or an aryl radical chosen from the phenyl, benzyl or tolyl radicals.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein y is an integer from 2 to 4.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): A composite material comprising an elastomeric matrix and an inorganic filler, wherein the material comprises a compound as claimed in claim 1 as a coupling agent.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The material as claimed in claim 15, wherein the inorganic filler is an oxide, a hydroxide, a carbonate or a silicoaluminate.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The material as claimed in claim 15, wherein the inorganic filler is a metallic material selected from the group consisting of steels, aluminum and copper.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): A process for the preparation of a compound as claimed in claim 7 in which each of the R groups is an alkyl Ra and $z = 4$, wherein:

- during a first stage, the trialkoxyphosphonate $P(ORa)_3$ (VI) is reacted with the dibromoalkane $Br-(CH_2)_y-Br$ (VII) ~~at a temperature of the order of 140°C in order to~~ obtain $Br-(CH_2)_y-P(O)(ORa)_2$ (VIII),
- during a second stage, the phosphonate $Br-(CH_2)_y-P(O)(ORa)_2$ (VIII) is reacted with Na_2S_4 under reflux of the methanol in order to obtain the compound $(RaO)_2P(O)-(CH_2)_y-S_4-(CH_2)_y-P(O)(ORa)_2$ (IIa).

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): A process for the preparation of a compound as claimed in claim 7 in which each of the R groups is a trialkylsilyl R'_3Si- , comprising reacting the compound $(RaO)_2P(O)-(CH_2)_y-S_4-(CH_2)_y-P(O)(ORa)_2$ (IIa) with a trialkylsilyl bromide R'_3SiBr in a 1/4 molar ratio in order to obtain the compound (IIb) $(R'_3SiO)_2P(O)-(CH_2)_y-S_4-(CH_2)_y-P(O)(OSiR'_3)_2$.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): A process for the preparation of a compound as claimed in claim 7 in which R is H, comprising hydrolyzing a compound $(\text{Ra})_2\text{P}(\text{O})-(\text{CH}_2)_y-\text{S}_4-(\text{CH}_2)_y-\text{P}(\text{O})(\text{ORa})_2$ in which Ra is an alkyl or hydrolyzing or alcoholizing a compound $(\text{R}'_3\text{SiO})_2\text{P}(\text{O})-(\text{CH}_2)_y-\text{S}_4-(\text{CH}_2)_y-\text{P}(\text{O})(\text{OSiR}'_3)_2$.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): A process for the preparation of a compound as claimed in claim 10 in which R represents H, wherein:

- during a first stage, $\text{P}(\text{O})\text{Cl}_3$ is reacted with $\text{HO}(\text{CH}_2)_y\text{Cl}$ in stoichiometric proportions in order to obtain the compound $\text{Cl}(\text{CH}_2)_y\text{OP}(\text{O})\text{Cl}_2$;
- during a second stage, the compound $\text{Cl}(\text{CH}_2)_y\text{OP}(\text{O})\text{Cl}_2$ is hydrolyzed in order to obtain the compound $\text{Cl}(\text{CH}_2)_y\text{OPO}_3\text{H}_2$;
- during a third stage, $\text{Cl}(\text{CH}_2)_y\text{OPO}_3\text{H}_2$ is reacted with Na_2S_4 under reflux of the methanol and then an ion exchange is carried out in order to obtain the compound $(\text{HO})_2\text{P}(\text{O})-\text{O}-(\text{CH}_2)_y-\text{S}_z-[\text{CH}_2]_t-(\text{CH}_2)_y-\text{O}-\text{P}(\text{O})(\text{OH})_2$.

Claim 22 (New): The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein $t = 1$.

Claim 23 (New): The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein $t = 2$.

Claim 24 (New): The process as claimed in claim 18, wherein during the first stage, the trialkoxyphosphonate $\text{P}(\text{ORa})_3$ (VI) is reacted with the dibromoalkane $\text{Br}-(\text{CH}_2)_y-\text{Br}$ (VII) at a temperature of about 140°C .